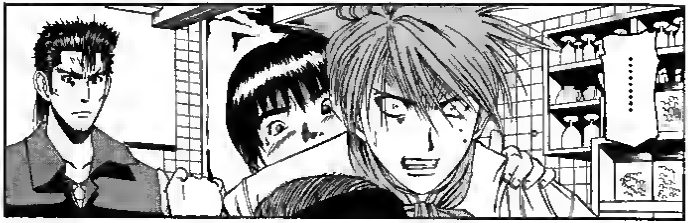
Chapter 31: The Mysterious Cooking Knife and Curry Bottle of the Past

Chapter 31
The Mysterious Cooking Knife and Curry Battle of the Past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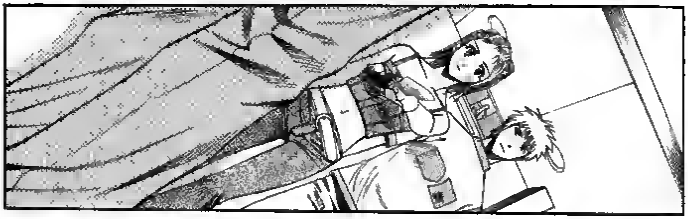

<SNATCH>
GRRR
CHK
AH!

REMEMBER THIS...
...BECAUSE I'LL DEFINITELY RETURN THE FAVOR...
.....
HEHE...
DID YOU SEE THE LOOK ON HIS FACE?
HAHA! THAT WAS GREAT, PRINCESS! I'M IMPRESSED!
ぽんっ
WIGGLE
PLOP-
YUI?
UM, MISS?

I WAS SO SCARED...
SNIFFLE
I...
WOBBLE
AH... AH...
WOBBLE
IF THERE WAS SOME WAY... IF YOU COULD FORGIVE...
OUR CHEF REALLY MADE A MESS...
EXCUSE ME...
TOUCH
HERE, WIPE YOUR NOSE...
SNIFF
WHAT THE HECK IS WRONG WITH THAT GUY?
CAN YOU STAND UP?
NO... my knees are too weak...
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT, YOU DID GOOD!
FU

THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT...
HUH?
BUT INSTEAD,

COULD YOU TELL US... HIS STORY ?

THAT KNIFE... IT WAS A PARTING GIFT FROM HIS FATHER...
BUD LIGHT
RESTAURANT
A PARTING GIFT?

HAVE YOU SEEN THE KNIFE .?
AH,
THERE WERE SOME WEIRD SYMBOLS AND PATTERNS ON IT, RIGHT?
YES, THAT KNIFE IS ...
DAMASCUS, RIGHT?
!
A PATTERN-WELDED HANDMADE KNIFE OF DAMASCUS STEEL ...
IT'S SAID THAT, BY FORGING THE IRON AND NICKEL, LAYER UPON LAYER ...
THE BLADE BECOMES HIGHLY RESISTANT TO RUST, AND HAS A GREAT CUT
AND THE DISTINCTIVE TRAIT, THE PATTERNS OF SYMBOLS THAT APPEAR ON THE FLAT SIDES OF THE BLADE
I SEE YOU'RE WELL INFORMED ...
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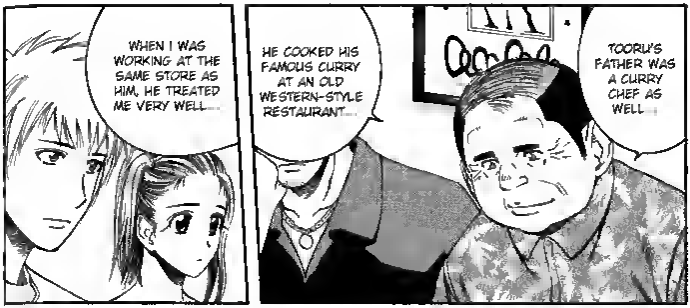
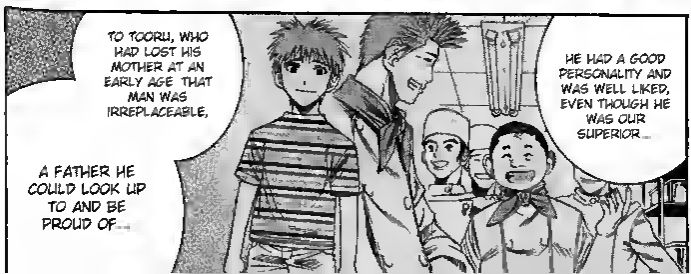

WHEN I WAS WORKING AT THE SAME STORE AS HIM, HE TREATED ME VERY WELL...
HE COOKED HIS FAMOUS CURRY AT AN OLD WESTERN-STYLE RESTAURANT...
TOORU'S FATHER WAS A CURRY CHEF AS WELL...

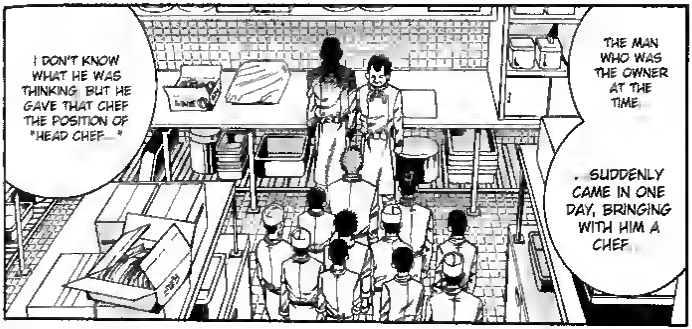
A GREAT MAN, EVERY TECHNIQUE OF HIS WAS A SIGHT TO SEE...
THE SKILL WITH WHICH HE HANDLED HIS TWO KNIFES..
...IMPRESSED THE REST OF US, EVEN THOUGH WE WERE ALSO CHEFS LIKE HIM


TO TOORU, WHO HAD LOST HIS MOTHER AT AN EARLY AGE THAT MAN WAS IRREPLACEABLE,
A FATHER HE COULD LOOK UP TO AND BE PROUD OF...
HE HAD A GOOD PERSONALITY AND WAS WELL LIKED, EVEN THOUGH HE WAS OUR SUPERIOR...

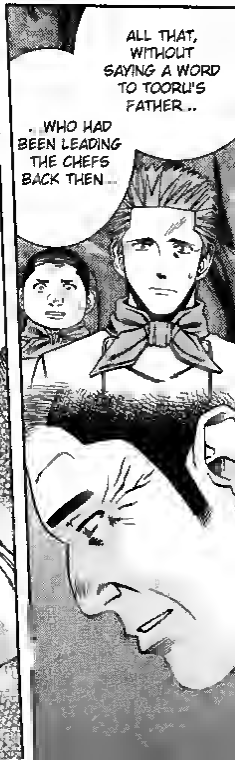
...WERE LIKE THE IDEAL FATHER AND SON...
DAD, YOUR CURRY IS AWESOME!
WHAT THE HECK? YOU'RE ONLY HELPFUL WHEN YOU'RE COOKING...
OWWW!
REALLY... EVEN FROM OUR EYES...
LET'S GO PLAY SOCCER, TOORU!
ALRIGHT!
OF COURSE, MORON!
SOMETIMES, TALKING WITH EACH OTHER LIKE THE BEST OF FRIENDS, THOSE TWO...

BUT,
.....

IN
OUR STORE WHICH HAD BEEN MAKING ORIENTAL CURRY FOR A LONG TIME...
...GRADUALLY BEGAN TO LOSE CUSTOMERS...
EVEN THAT BIT OF HAPPINESS... DIDN'T LAST LONG...


THE MAN WHO WAS THE OWNER AT THE TIME...
...SUDDENLY CAME IN ONE DAY, BRINGING WITH HIM A CHEF...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE WAS THINKING, BUT HE GAVE THAT CHEF THE POSITION OF "HEAD CHEF..."

ON TOP OF THAT... THAT CHEF...


ALL THAT, WITHOUT SAYING A WORD TO TOORU'S FATHER...
...WHO HAD BEEN LEADING THE CHEFS BACK THEN...

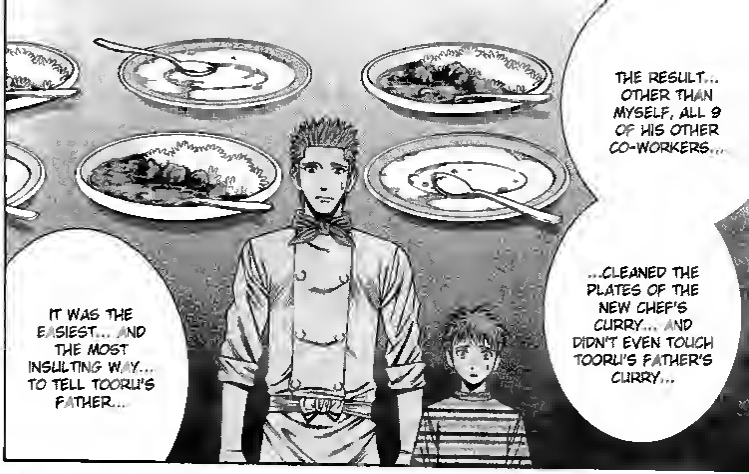
STARTING TODAY, WE'LL STICK TO TRUE CURRY, INDIAN STYLE!
FROM NOW ON, WE WON'T BE MAKING ANY MORE FAKE CURRY, LIKE THOSE ORIENTAL OR WESTERN STYLES!

NOBODY COULD STAY QUIET AFTER HEARING THAT, INCLUDING TOORU'S FATHER...
YOU MUST BE KIDDING ME! "FAKE?!" HOW CAN I ACCEPT AN INSULT LIKE THAT?!
AND THAT CHEF MADE A SUGGESTION...
...TO HOLD A CURRY BATTLE...

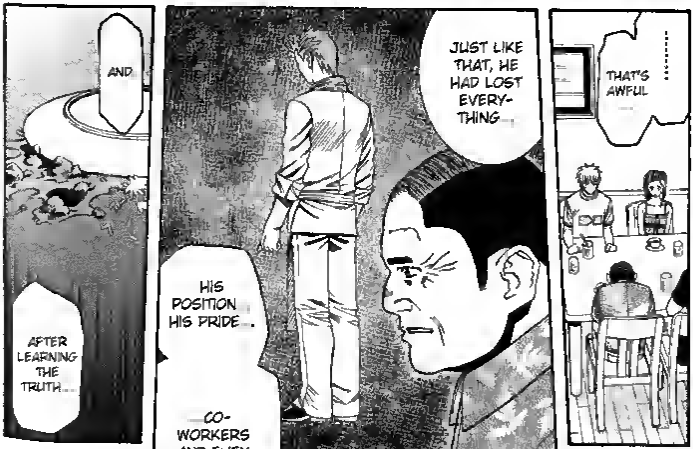
A BATTLE BETWEEN INDIAN- AND ORIENTAL-STYLE CURRY, WITH THE FATE OF THE SHOP ON THE LINE WHICH CURRY WOULD BE ON THE NEW MENU...
THE JUDGES WERE THE OTHER CHEFS AT THE RESTAURANT, EXCLUDING THOSE TWO...

RIGGED?
TO PUT IT SIMPLY,
"BRIBERY"

AND THEN..?
YES, ALL OF TOORU'S FATHER'S CO-WORKERS, INCLUDING ME...
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOKED AT IT, TOORU'S FATHER HAD THE ADVANTAGE
...IF THAT CHEF HADN'T RIGGED THE BATTLE, THAT IS


THE RESULT... OTHER THAN MYSELF, ALL 9 OF HIS OTHER CO-WORKERS...
...CLEANED THE PLATES OF THE NEW CHEF'S CURRY... AND DIDN'T EVEN TOUCH TOORU'S FATHER'S CURRY...
IT WAS THE EASIEST... AND THE MOST INSULTING WAY... TO TELL TOORU'S FATHER...

...EVERYTHING TOORU'S FATHER HAD DONE FOR THEM...
COM-PLETELY FORGET-TING...

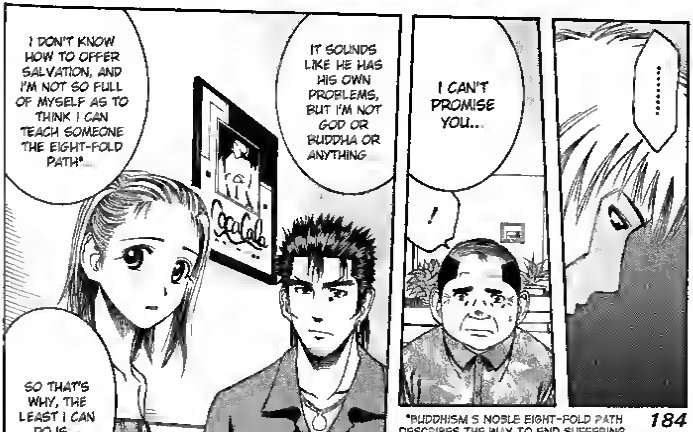

AND...
AFTER LEARNING THE TRUTH...
HIS POSITION... HIS PRIDE...
...CO-WORKERS AND EVEN FRIENDS...
JUST LIKE THAT, HE HAD LOST EVERY-THING...
THAT'S AWFUL.....

...THE NEXT MORNING...
...HE HUNG HIMSELF AT THE RESTAURANT...
I...
I RESPECTED HIM DEEPLY...
BUT...
I SIMPLY COULDN'T FORGIVE...
...WHAT HE DID THAT DAY...
THE IMAGE OF TOORU THAT DAY...
DAD'S CURRY... IS AWESOME!
THE IMAGE OF TOORU...
TOORU... THAT DAY...
IT'S AWESOME, I'M NOT KIDDING!
ぐちゃ...

SEE?!
AFTER THAT TOORU WAS PASSED AROUND BETWEEN HIS RELATIVES...
APPARENTLY HE WAS ABUSED A LOT DURING ALL THAT...
アア...
シャアアア
THE SCARS HE RECEIVED THEN — ARE STILL ENGRAVED IN HIS BODY TODAY AS FRESH AS WHEN HE FIRST RECEIVED THEM...
アアア...
ズボボボ
AND THEN HE COULD ONLY

...SMILE A FALSE SMILE.
.....
A HATRED FOR INDIAN CURRY, AND SEEKING REVENGE...
THE JAPANESE CURRY HIS FATHER LOVED, TO PROVE ORIENTAL CURRY'S BEAUTY...
THAT'S ALL HE HAS NOW.
.....
SO PLEASE, KOENJI-SAN!
IN THIS UPCOMING BATTLE...
PLEASE SAVE TOORU!
カンバ

DON'T TOUCH THAT COOKING KNIFE!
I'LL DESTROY THIS STORE!
HOW DARE YOU HIT ME?!
HURRY AND FINISH IT!
THE SECOND ASSAILANT KILLED BY SUPERN.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW?


I DON'T KNOW HOW TO OFFER SALVATION, AND I'M NOT SO FULL OF MYSELF AS TO THINK I CAN TEACH SOMEONE THE EIGHT-FOLD PATH*...
IT SOUNDS LIKE HE HAS HIS OWN PROBLEMS, BUT I'M NOT GOD OR BUDDHA OR ANYTHING...
I CAN'T PROMISE YOU...
!
.....
SO THAT'S WHY, THE LEAST I CAN DO IS...

*BUDDHISM'S NOBLE EIGHT-FOLD PATH DESCRIBES THE WAY TO END SUFFERING ACHIEVE NIRVANA, ETC. GOOGLE IT IF YOU CARE

WITH ALL MY POWER,
I'LL COOK SOMETHING I BELIEVE IS GOOD!
I KNOW WHY THAT CURRY WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH...
THIS CURRY CANNOT WIN...
I FINALLY UNDERSTAND, OLD MAN...
HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO STUPID?
JUST WHAT HAVE I BEEN THINKING? EXACTLY WHAT HAVE I BEEN COOKING...?

BUT A CURRY MADE WITH ALL MY HEART AND SOUL!
WHAT I SHOULD HAVE MADE... NOT A CURRY FOR THE PURPOSE OF WINNING A BATTLE...

...TO THE BATTLEFIELD!
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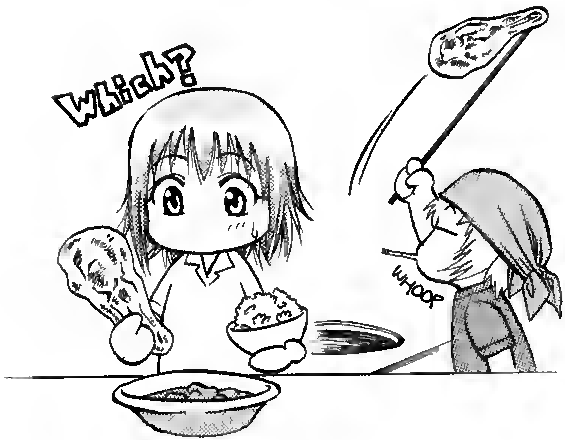
WELL NOW...

LET'S GO...

華麗なるカレー食卓

～Addicted to curry～



ADDICTED TO CURRY

THIS CHAPTER IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY SOLARIS AND YANIME

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華麗なるカレー食卓

~Addicted to curry~